

Tuesday
January 16, 1990

8 animals die in attack at city's zoo. Director blames dogs, says costs may reach \$16,000. Eight animals at Dickerson Park Zoo were killed Monday when two dogs (a black and white male malamute and a tan male boxer) spooked the animals causing them to run into the fence of their pen and break their necks. Although the dogs did not actually attack the animals, they sent them into a panic.

Wednesday
January 17, 1990

Dog attack claims ninth victim at zoo; 3 others recovering. Three Zoo animals survived an attack by two dogs early Monday and showed signs of recovery, but another animal had died on Tuesday, making a total of 9 animals dying from the

Tuesday
February 1, 1994

Pet peeves: Panel mulls new rules. Animal Control - a policy committee airs its recommendations at a public meeting. The Plans and Policies Committee of the Springfield City Council held a public meeting on Monday to discuss proposed revisions of the current animal control ordinance and the feasibility of a proposed spay-and-neuter ordinance. Among the proposed changes to the existing ordinance is the addition of cats to language concerning limiting the number of animals a resident may have; no person in charge of a residence would be allowed to keep more than four cats or dogs, or any combination of them, if the animals are over the age of four months; and, any cat over four months found not wearing a rabies tag would be considered a stray. Under the new proposal, a cat would be at large if found off its owner's property or not restrained by a "competent" person. Also discussed was that pet owners would be required to spay and/or neuter their pets and to license their pets as well. The licenses would be good for one year.

Saturday
March 8, 1997

Pit bulls maul postal carrier. An attack by at least two of the dogs leaves a man with "extremely serious injuries." A postal carrier was savagely mauled Thursday when at least two dogs attacked him on a residential street in northwest Springfield. James Lowe was in fair condition at a local hospital following the attack in the front yard of a home at 818 North Farmer. Police say he received "extremely serious injuries and pretty large lacerations" in the mauling. Two adult pit bull terriers, apparently responsible for the carnage, were sprayed with Mace and lassoed around their necks by animal control officers before being dragged, yelping into the back of a secure van and taken to a local shelter - about an hour after the attack. One of the animals

snarled and snapped at an officer before he slammed it against the back of the vehicle and locked it away. A pit bull puppy was left in the house after no blood was found on its paws or muzzle. The owner of the pit bulls faces possible misdemeanor charges. Thursday's attack was the first serious mauling of a carrier in recent history.

And

Dogs in attack may have been malnourished. Two dogs that mauled a postal carrier on Thursday had "some indication, perhaps, of being malnourished," police stated. The possible mistreatment of the pit bull terriers has had police to send the case beyond city prosecutors and they were asking the county prosecutor to look at this a possible animal neglect case. It was not known if the neglect precipitated the attack or not. If the carrier's office does not file state charges against the owner of the dogs, the police file could probably be forwarded to city prosecutors, who could charge the owner with letting her dogs roam free. The dogs will remain at the City animal shelter until at least midday March 16th.

Wednesday
March 12, 1997

Charges filed in attack by pit bulls. The mail carrier who was bitten by the dogs begins his recovery at home. Municipal charges were filed Tuesday against the owner of two pit bulls that mauled a postal carrier last week and the injured man said he is trying to regain his strength and ward off the pain.

Thursday
March 13, 1997

Dogs send area running scared. An attack last week by three pit bulls has spurred an increase in complaints to animal control officers. It will be up to the City of Springfield now to decide the fate of three pit bull terriers that mauled a Springfield postman last week. Regardless of whether the city decides the animals should die for the attack, the controversy of vicious and roaming dogs is sure to live on. The dogs' fate rests with the city because the owner (Melissa Atkinson, who was cited on municipal charges of having vicious dogs) turned over ownership of her pets on Wednesday. Springfield-Greene County officials said the department will decide whether to euthanize the dogs after Sunday, when a 10-day rabies observation period is complete. The attack has spurred calls and complaints to the animal control division and the four animal control officers were having trouble keeping up with all of the calls.

Friday
March 14, 1997

Warning on dogs absent. Melissa Atkinson says she didn't know her dogs were mean before the mauling. When the owner of two dogs that attacked a postal carrier (Melissa Atkinson) appears in municipal court soon regarding the attack, she'll have to answer a key question – why didn't she have a sign posted at her home saying her pets were vicious, as required by law? Also cited on the charge as having vicious dogs and not containing them, the owner stated she didn't know the dogs were hostile enough to attack the mail carrier.

Sunday
March 16, 1997

City can be made safer for carriers. In response to the vicious-dog attack suffered by postal carrier John Lowe, local residents are writing letters to the editor, talking about how to keep mail routes safe and whether certain breeds of dogs should be banned from the city.

Saturday
June 7, 1997

Judge orders 2 pit bulls destroyed. Two pit bull terriers were ordered to be destroyed after a Springfield municipal judge found their owner guilty on Friday afternoon of possessing vicious dogs. Melissa Atkinson (owner) has 10 days to appear Judge Dennis Budd's verdict, which he issued after a daylong trial concerning the dogs' attack on postal carrier James Lowe in March. Lowe was hospitalized several days after being bitten by the two dogs. In addition to the dogs' being destroyed, Atkinson must pay a \$100 fine and court costs.

Thursday
July 24, 1997

Loose dogs create trouble. Springfield and Greene County look for solutions to an ongoing problem. The problem of roaming and vicious dogs remains in Springfield and will probably be a problem forever, but health officials were continuing to search for answers because it doesn't have an ordinance that prohibits dogs from roaming. The law only steps in after a bite occurs.

Friday
July 25, 1997

Our View: Promises need dogging. Editorial in News-Leader regarding yet another mal carrier's safety endangered by dogs. They suggested it was past time to get serious about dogs running loose in Springfield and Greene County.

Sunday
April 9, 2000

Man's best friend can be worst enemy. Vicious dog attacks cause of growing concern. While adults prepared for an afternoon barbecue on March 25th, a four-year-old boy

walked toward a pit bull that was chained nearby. In just moments, the dog had caught a hold of the boy's head and face and injured him so severely he required 180 stitches. As children across the country go outside as the weather warms up, this scenario may be repeated again and again. A 1996 study by the American Academy of Pediatrics showed children are at greater risk of dog attacks than adults. From 1989 to 1994, of 109 people killed by dogs, 57% were children under 10 years of age. Eleven deaths involved sleeping infants, 19 resulted from dogs with a history of aggression, and five involved unrestrained dogs off the owner's property. One prevention method for dog bites includes educating children on how to behave around dogs and what to avoid.

And

Lack of resources hampering animal control. Area residents want fast responses to reports of loose dogs, but city rules limit effectiveness. With problems such as reporting loose dogs running in neighborhoods and attacking dogs and people, Animal Control was reporting that the problem is hard to solve with only five officers and strict policies on when to use enforcement. From last July through January, animal control picked up 578 dogs in the city for running at large. Officers issued 188 summonses to owners. During the same period the year before, the office picked up 689 dogs and wrote 225 summonses. Animal Control Officers are limited on picking up dogs running loose because they must actually see the dog running loose, or see a dog chase, bite or bully someone before they can take to the Shelter. Animal Control Officers try to issue as many citations as they can, but with the influx of calls, response time can sometimes be as much as two to three hours.

And

Stray dogs present a danger to helpless farm animals. Commentary in the newspaper regarding "dump dogs" in the county and around farms that have calves being born in the spring. The dump dogs gather in packs and the young calves are at risk of being attacked, and in most cases, the calf is killed.

And

Our View: Animal calls need answers. Editorial in newspaper regarding animal control problems in the city and county. Their suggestion was that the city needs to hire

additional and county officials must stop ignoring the problem.

Friday
March 22, 2002

Ozarks laws exist to identify vicious animals, prevent similar attacks. The recent case of a San Francisco woman killed by two Presa Canario dogs highlights the reason provisions to deal with dangerous or vicious dogs are in place. Director of Health Harold Bengsch noted that procedures here are designed to identify dangerous dogs and prevent an attack as vicious as the one that killed Diane Whipple. Bengsch stated that animal control and related issues take up much of the health department's time. In the city of Springfield from July 2000 through June 2001, a total of 10,552 cases related to dangerous or vicious animals were investigated and a total of 648 municipal citations were issued for violations of the city's animal control ordinance. Bengsch hears dangerous dog complaints and decides if an animal should be classified as dangerous. If the dog is declared dangerous, stipulations are made to the owner in order for them to continue to keep the dog. In a vicious-dog complaint, the municipal judge makes the decision and typically the dog is found to be vicious, it is either euthanized or banned from the city. A dog deemed vicious may have bitten someone or may be exhibiting other behavior such as trying to attack or harm them.

Tuesday
September 23, 2003

Boy, 4, badly injured by two pit bulls. A 4-year-old Springfield youngster remained hospitalized Monday night with injuries to his face and neck after being attacked by two pit bulls in the 1600 block of North Kentwood Avenue. The youngster was bitten about 7:00 PM after he had gone to a friend's house to retrieve a watch he had left in the back yard earlier in the day. The dogs reportedly jumped a fence from the property of a neighbor of the friend. Animal control took custody of the dogs.

Wednesday
September 24, 2003

4-year-old recovering after surgery; two pit bulls to be euthanized. Dogs in mauling were an ongoing problem. Owners had been cited previously for same animals. Plastic surgeons operated for four hours and use skin grafts to reconstruct 4-year-old Pete Gonzales' face, neck and ears, which were mangled when three dogs - all pit-bull mixes - attacked the child sometime after 6:30 PM Monday in north Springfield. The three pit bulls that allegedly mauled the boy are now being held by the city. Kevin Gipson (Assistant Director of Health) said that in eight days, two of the three animals will be "humanely destroyed." The two dogs were taken into custody by a Springfield Animal Control officer

shortly after the attack and the owners were cited for violating the city's vicious-dog ordinance, allowing the animals to run at large and failure to display proof of rabies vaccination. A third dog was also confiscated but will not be euthanized. Upon a records search, it was discovered that all three animals were repeat offenders for running loose and biting.

Thursday
September 25, 2003

Our view: Dogs shouldn't get a second bite. Many pets go back to owners after first attack. Editorial in newspaper regarding the recent attack of a 4-year-old by three dogs, all of them with past run-ins with city animal control officers. Ron Boyer (Assistant Director of Health) stated that it happens many times a year. An animal that has bitten or scratched someone is quarantined for 10 days to check for rabies. If it shows no sign of infection at the end of that period, it is returned to the owner. Only if the bite came in what is considered a vicious attack does the city seek to take the dog away. Editorial went to say to some degree this made sense because some bites are accidental, but it was hard to swallow that 97% of dog bites fall under that description. Suggested that a more hard-headed approach by animal control officers or a stronger city ordinance that defines as vicious any dog that bites a human in anything other than the most innocent fashion.

Sunday
September 28, 2003

Will boy's mauling lead to tougher dog laws? Weak city ordinance frustrates officers, public; Illinois takes a stricter approach. The mauling by pit bull mixes last week has again turned the community's attention to dangerous animals, reinvigorating a debate about how to prevent future attacks. Animal control is often perceived by the public as a reactive and ineffective way to deal with menacing animals. Unfortunately, they are hamstrung by flimsy ordinances concerning vicious dogs. Harold Bengsch, Director of Health, said he's waiting to see what type of punishment the judge doles out in the Gonzales case before he recommends anything to City Council. City Prosecutor Ron Dirickson said he will seek the maximum penalty - a \$500 fine and two years' probation for each owner. While some cities have enacted breed-specific bans, usually pit bulls, Bengsch feels that route would most certainly ignite another firestorm of controversy. He went on to say that he didn't think you could pass any law that stops a bite of this nature from occurring because there are always people who will not follow the laws.

And

Our view: State, city should take on biting dogs. Laws should control four-legged weapons. Editorial in newspaper saying it was time for the General Assembly and the Springfield City Council to stand up for public safety. Dogs may be man's best friend, but they can also be our worst nightmare – and that's what commonsense legislation should be aimed at. They urged the legislature in 2004 to enact laws requiring any dog that viciously attacks a human or another animal to be euthanized. They also urged Springfield to take a hard look at a proposal that would set restrictions on breeds with a history of vicious attacks.

Tuesday
September 30, 2003

Stronger dog laws urged in city. A Springfield couple tells the council they are "fed up," and propose strict licensing fees. A couple from the northeast part of Springfield spoke before City Council on Monday evening and went on to say they were fed up with loosely crafted city laws that allow animals to roam at large. They asked the council to consider a new licensing fee that would require all city dog owners to pay the full cost of animal control laws.

And

On the same day a citizen wrote a letter to the editor in regards to an editorial that the state and city should take on biting dogs and taking issue with the suggestion that a law outlawing certain breeds of dog was wrong.

And

An article by Sarah Overstreet that dangerous dogs should not be allowed to menace neighborhoods. Ron Boyer (Assistant Director of Health) stated that it was hard for Animal Control officers to pick up dogs that break tethers and bother people unless there is evidence, which usually means a bite, a mauling, or, as in one case, a dog that jumped on and frightened people that were walking along a section of the Greenways Trail in separate incidents. The people being menaced by neighbors' dogs are hesitant to testify against a neighbor for fear of retribution. Overstreet suggested it was time for City Council to study the size, strength, history and tendencies of certain breeds and without banning certain breeds, owners could be held to certain safety requirements such as well-constructed fences or not owning the breed.

And

Dog-bite victim gets restitution. Man whose finger was bitten off by a pit bull last fall gets \$140 from owner. Nearly a year after a pit bull removed part of his ring finger, David Upchurch received some restitution on Monday for his medical expenses. The Springfield man received \$140 in cash from the pit bull's owner, Christopher Arnold, who worked out a plea agreement with the Springfield Prosecutor minutes before his scheduled trial. Arnold also received two years probation for violating the City's vicious dog ordinance, but had a maximum \$500 fine suspended in exchange for compensating Upchurch.

Friday
October 24, 2003

Dogs impounded after man bitten. Two pit bulls accost pedestrian, witnesses say; owner says they don't attack unless provoked. The owner of two pit bulls that attacked a man as he left the General Council Credit Union on North Campbell said his two dogs - Shade and Montana - are mellow creatures and good pets that pose no threat. An Animal Control Officer who responded to the call said the skin was broken by a bite and the victim has filed a dog-bite report. An open gate allowed the dogs to escape their yard. This incident comes a month after a four-year boy was mauled by pit bull mixes in a neighbor's back yard. The Director of Health stated each attack adds more weight to the argument that the ordinances are not strong enough and the Health Department was going to see if they could come up with anything that will improve. The current ordinances do not consider a dog in a fenced yard a threat and there are no requirements regulating the height or strength of fences. The two dogs are currently in custody of Animal Control.

Tuesday
October 28, 2003

Give animal control means to protect. Committee gets first shot at law with teeth. After the recent attack of a man by two dogs running loose this week, an advisory committee was to be formed to look through information provided by the Health Department to create an action plan. News-Leader was suggesting that while the committee needed to consider ways that animal control officers can step in and stop the culture of fear the current law allows, but they also need the ability to follow through with suggestions. Officers need to be able to take action to prevent the first bite. They needed to be able to order a dog owner to take precautions that will save a child from being mauled or citizens from being chased down an alley.

Thursday
October 30, 2003

Dog issue calls for leadership. A letter to the editor regarding recent attacks by dogs and yet no plans by City Council or Manger to offer a plan to address the problem. Went on to say that the lack of funds has evolved from a convenient excuse into a mantra for some of our leaders. They may have empty pocket books for funding the animal control program, but will have money for other high-end projects. Suggested City should look at finding the money to fund more pressing needs of the community.

Saturday
November 15, 2003

New panel to focus on biting dogs. Veterinarians and other animal experts will work on ways to reduce attacks. The eight members of the new Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee are used to dogs trying to bite them, and they are hoping to get past the emotional issues surrounding recent dog attacks and focus on ways to reduce animal bites. The citizen committee, chaired by veterinarian and former Springfield City Councilman Dr. Jim Crooke will consider current city ordinances that relate to vicious dogs. The first meeting will be held Tuesday at 7:00 PM in the fourth floor conference room of the Busch Municipal Building and is open to the public. Committee members include John Derby (Executive Director of the Southwest Missouri Humane Society); Dr. Tedd Hamaker (owner of Springfield Veterinary Hospital); Ann Schonert (Director of Pet Connections); and animal trainer Susan Gilbert.

Sunday
December 7, 2003

City uses mapping to track dog attacks. In June, grid shows all but one of 14 attacks took place north of Sunshine. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department has added a new tool to tackle the rising number of dog bites and attacks; computer mapping. Health officials plotted numbers for June and a few trends emerged. Of the 14 vicious dogs reported to the department, all but one was north of Sunshine Street. The east-west artery also emerged as a demarcation line for dogs running at large. More than three-quarters of the strays reported in June were north of Sunshine. Though officials plan to track more data in the future, they hope the preliminary map will help a new citizens committee that's wrestling with how to curtail the problem.

Wednesday
December 17, 2003

Proposed dog law provides penalties. A draft ordinance - drawn up by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department - outlined 11 proposed restrictions a judge could impose when a dog is deemed vicious. Members of

the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee discussed the list at their third meeting Tuesday evening. The panel has been charged with devising a way to curtail the growing number of dog bites and attacks in Springfield. Under the proposal, vicious dogs are considered those that bite or attack another domestic animal or human without being provoked, which the panel favored. Other terms of the ordinance were for dogs to be immediately euthanized, spayed or neutered, implanted with an identification microchip; and, leashed or muzzled when outside of their enclosure.

Thursday
December 18, 2003

Law's point should be prevention. Animal control officers need way to stop attacks. Editorial in News-Leader regarding the proposal from the Springfield-Greene County Health Department presented to the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee on vicious animals. Although the Committee had not embraced the new proposal, News-Leader was hoping it would reconsider.

Monday
January 5, 2004

Panel considers why dogs bite. Letter to the editor from Ann Schonert (found of Pet Connection and on the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee) in response to another letter that had been written and wrongly suggested the committee was not performing the task that had been given to them.

Wednesday
January 7, 2004

We can't just let this problem go on." Dog panel growing some teeth. Group braces for public meetings on vicious animals. The committee charged with crafting an ordinance to control vicious dogs in Springfield fine-tuned the measure's language and anticipated a heated debate during public forums planned in the coming weeks. Members of the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee expect meetings to be highly charged as city leaders weigh personal safety against owners' rights and responsibilities.

Monday
January 26, 2004

Public can speak on dog ordinance. A committee that drafted a city ordinance to control vicious dogs in Springfield will hold a public hearing Tuesday night before sending its proposal to the City Council. The Animal Ordinance Review Committee will meet at 7:00 PM at the Council Chambers on Boonville. Speakers may be asked to limit their comments to five minutes. Copies of the proposed ordinance can be picked up at the City Clerk's office and a link to the proposed ordinance is online.

Wednesday
January 28, 2004

City residents take aim at vicious-dog ordinance.
Suggestions include educating owners, enacting tougher laws. Some had bulletted talking points and others spoke from the heart, but their message was clear - preventing vicious dog attacks in Springfield is going to take a lot more than a new ordinance.

Thursday
January 29, 2004

Vicious-dog meeting shows some citizens should be muzzled. Sarah Overstreet article regarding the recent meeting of the committee studying a new dangerous-dog ordinance and how it was expected to hear explosive fireworks, resulting in nothing more than a few spurts of raining blaze.

And

Proposed dog law hits the mark. Bill gives officers means to prevent bites. Editorial in News-Leader praising the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee on coming up with an excellent proposal and making the law much more proactive than the current ordinance.

Monday
February 2, 2004

Vicious breeds should be barred. Letter to the editor regarding Springfield's new proposed vicious dog ordinance and it was their viewpoint that there should be breed-specific laws banning some breeds - in particular Pit Bulls.

Wednesday
February 11, 2004

Vicious-dog law going to council. Judges would have several options to deal with animals threatening safety.
Springfield's vicious dog ordinance has been refined by a panel of professionals and is headed to City Council. The Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee nitpicked the proposal as a group for the last time on Tuesday, making only a handful of last-minute revisions. At a public hearing last month, the committee heard a variety of opinions about how to best prevent dog bites and attacks, which city officials have said increased significantly in the past year. Members of the committee were please with what they call is a "pretty good, solid ordinance." The ordinance gives judges authority to order vicious dogs micro chipped, sterilized, kept in enclosed kennels or killed, depending on the threat to public safety.

Saturday
February 28, 2004

2 pit bulls to be killed for attacks. Judge finds owner guilty of keeping vicious dogs, allowing them freedom. A Springfield judge has ordered two pit bulls that repeatedly bit bank patrons to be euthanized. The dogs' owner, Jason Edwards, was found guilty Friday of two counts of keeping vicious dogs and two counts of allowing his dogs to run at large. The owner had testified that the dogs were docile enough to play with toddlers, but Municipal Court Judge Dennis Budd said there was ample evidence showing the dogs were a serious threat to strangers. The charges stemmed from an October 23, 2003 dog attack that occurred behind the credit union at 1535 North Campbell. A patron of the credit union was walking in the alley adjacent to the bank and Edwards' back yard when he was attacked by two brown pit bulls that jumped the fence. The victim was bitten three times where they broke the skin. The judge requested that the victim show the court the shredded pair of slacks he had been wearing during the attack. The right leg was ripped from the mid-thigh all the way to the cuff. Credit union employees also testified that the pit bulls often jumped Edwards' fence and ran around the parking lot. Two employees could not get to their cars because they were afraid ... one of the dogs was foaming at the mouth. The Judge fined Edwards \$2,200 plus court costs and gave him a suspended 10-day jail sentence; \$500 of the fine was suspended. The Judge also ordered Edwards to pay \$260 in restitution to two victims to cover medical expenses from their dog bites. Edwards must also pay impounding fees his dog incurred at the animal shelter since October, a total of \$1,284 as of Friday. After hearing the dogs must be destroyed, the owner sniffled through the rest of the sentencing and as a condition of probation; he was prohibited from possessing any dogs inside the city limits for two years.

Tuesday
May 11, 2004

City dog ordinance awaits final decision. Springfield's proposed vicious-dog ordinance has only one more hoop to clear before it becomes law. The Springfield City Council had a public hearing Monday night on the ordinance, which would allow municipal courts to impose restrictions on threatening or violent dogs before they bite someone. Current law prevents the city from taking action until a dog attacked. The ordinance was drafted by a citizens committee, led by Dr. Jim Crooke after a four year old boy was attacked by his neighbor's pit bulls.

Wednesday
May 12, 2004

Vicious-dog law only the first step. Educational campaign could make difference. An editorial in the News-Leader regarding a proposed city law making it easier to take action against vicious dogs before they bite someone and how this law has been needed for a long time.

Tuesday
February 15, 2005

Dogs attack owner, pet while walking. Two loose dogs killed a terrier and broke Mary Keeton's finger. Mary Keeton and her Boston terrier were walking in her neighborhood on North Campbell Avenue when two loose dogs charged down a side street toward them. The dogs pounced on the terrier repeatedly and biting into the dog while the owner frantically tried to ward them off. The lady was bitten several times on her hands and broke a finger in four places. After the terrier was lifeless, the dogs moved on. After spending the better part of the afternoon combing the neighborhood, Animal Control Officer William Salter was unable to locate the dogs, but vowed that he would not give up until the dogs were found.

Thursday
February 11, 2005

Suspected killer dogs caught. Animal Control Officer William Slater (who had vowed earlier in the week to capture the two dogs that attack a lady and her Boston terrier while walking) took his work home. Instead of sleeping, the officer stayed up working on the case of the two loose dogs that killed the terrier. His all-nighter paid off when he picked up two pit-bull mixes - a large female and her pup - at a house not far from the scene of the vicious attack. Slater talked with several witnesses in the neighborhood that had seen the larger of the two dogs roaming with blood on her snout and chest. Statements from mail carriers led Slater to a house in the park area where he found two dogs matching the description of the dogs in the attack. The owners' names were not released pending further investigation. Slater plans to forward his report to the city prosecutor's office today and hopes the owners will be prosecuted under Springfield's vicious dog ordinance, which authorizes municipal judges to order dangerous or menacing dogs microchipped, caged, neutered, muzzled, or euthanized.

Tuesday
June 14, 2005

3-year-old boy survives mauling by pit bull. Dog's owner may be prosecuted under the vicious dog ordinance, official says. A 3-year-old boy mauled by a pit bull on Monday in west Springfield survived bites to the neck and side of his head but only after several hours of surgery at St. John's

Hospital. Young Zachary Yinquez was in stable condition at press time. Zachary was playing in the back yard of a small house on West Grand when the attack occurred. The boy and two other children had been playing in the front yard when they ventured into the back yard where the dog was. Officials were not sure if the dog was tethered when it attacked and broke its chain or if the kids came too close. An investigation was still being conducted. The dog was taken into custody at St. John's after officials discovered it inside a van. The pit bull will remain at the animal shelter for 10 days. Animal control had been to the residence before and issued citations for dogs running loose, but it was unsure if the dog involved in the attack was one of the dogs previously picked up by officers.

And

Nuisance law is dangerously vague. Potential exists for unscrupulous abuse. Editorial in newspaper regarding the nuisance law the City Council considered at Monday night's meeting and that it was a bad law with good intentions, but vague definitions. Newspaper felt the law was not carefully written and narrow in definitions.

Wednesday
June 15, 2005

Vicious-dog ordinance more bark than bite. Zachary Yinquez, 3, spent 10 hours in surgery to salvage nerves to his face. After a boy was mauled by pit bull mixes in September 2003, the city adopted a vicious dog ordinance, but as predicted, the measure didn't prevent history repeating itself. On Monday another boy playing in a neighbor's back yard was seriously injured when a pit bull mix chewed up the right side of his face, mangling an ear and exposing his jugular vein. Surgeons spent 10 hours trying to salvage nerves that control the right side of his facial expressions and the young boy remained in stable condition at St. John's. No charges were filed Tuesday against the owners of the dog, which is being held at the city animal shelter for a 10 day observation period. While the ordinance does give the city better means to deal with problems, some wish the ordinance went further to punish owners of vicious dogs.

Thursday
June 16, 2005

Another pit bull attacks; breed crowds city pound. Dog that bit man previously hurt young girl, animal control says. Two attacks in two days have brought the number of pit bulls at the local animal shelter to 13, and the newest guest may be the first dog picked up twice for drawing human blood. A pit bull bit a young man Tuesday night in west Springfield

as he walked home from a party. The incident occurred the day after a three-year-old boy was mauled by a male pit bull in the back yard of a west Springfield home. The boy spent more than 10 hours in surgery and is recovering from head and neck injuries at St. John's. The owners of that dog have yet to be charged pending review of the City's vicious dog ordinance by City Prosecutors. The dog that attacked the little boy has never hurt anyone before the boy; however, the pit bull involved in Tuesday's attack is a repeat offender. That dog was identified as the same pit bull that bit a little girl in the face last December and the City Prosecutor has filed a vicious-dog complaint against that dog's owner, who pleaded guilty at a court appearance in March and expressed remorse for his dog's misdeed. The Prosecutor had argued to have the dog destroyed; however, the victim's parents never appeared in court to identify the dog. Because of the lack of evidence, the judge ordered the pit bull to have a microchip implanted, posed a \$1,000 suspended fine, placed the owner on two years' probation and required him to pay \$477 in restitution to the City. This is the first time a dog has received two strikes under the vicious dog ordinance passed by Council last year.

Friday
June 17, 2005

Spread awareness of city's dog law. Knowledge would make law more effective. Editorial in the News-Leader regarding how the new vicious dog ordinance has helped in dealing with aggressive dogs; however, dog owners need to be made more aware of the law. Oftentimes, the people who live where most dog attacks occur do not have time to closely follow the details of new laws and the newspaper suggested targeting leaflets at areas with the largest number of dog attacks. Or, another solution would be to send animal control officers or volunteers into neighborhoods when people are home to talk about the ordinance. Newspaper went on to say the surest way to prevent dog attacks is for owners to discipline and train the dogs not to attack.

Thursday
June 23, 2005

Pit bull's owners apologize for attack on boy. City will pursue charges against couple, who have agreed to dog's destruction. The owners of a pit bull that mauled a Springfield boy last week will appear in court next month to face the consequences of owning a vicious pit bull. The dog attacked the three-year-old boy while it was chained to a post in the back yard of a home on West Grand Street. The young boy suffered serious injuries to the right side of his neck and face. After reviewing the case, City Prosecutor to

pursue charges against the couple even though the couple had given consent for the dog to be destroyed. The pit bull had never lashed out at its owners or their children before the attack. Under the city's vicious dog ordinance, a judge could fine the owners up to \$500 and place them on probation.

Monday
June 27, 2005
KY-3 Story

Latest dog attack could spur city council to action. The victim wants pit bull terriers to be banned in Springfield. A man from Springfield suffered injuries on his arm and leg after being attacked by two pit bull terriers on Sunday morning and he wants the Springfield City Council to ban that breed of dog and one councilman says it might be considered. The owners of the dog were cited for not having a leash, but the victim said that is not enough. The two dogs are in custody and animal control officer Will Slater said when the dogs were placed in the same pen, they became aggressive. The victim said just hours after the attack, a different pit bull was running loose in the neighborhood and that is he thought a ban on pit bulls was needed.

Tuesday
June 28, 2005

Bite victim: Ban pit bulls in city. City Council looked at ban in past and decided enforcement would be hard. A Springfield man who was attacked and bitten by pit bulls Sunday would like to see pit bulls banned in Springfield and one city councilman is supporting the idea. Last month, two pit bulls killed their owner in his St. Louis home; two weeks ago a 3-year-old boy was mauled by a pit bull in the back yard of a West Springfield home; and on Sunday a man was attacked by two pit bulls at his apartment complex in the 500 block of North Lone Pine. The City has examined the possibility of breed-specific bans in the past and concluded that enforcement could be problematic, but one victim is hopeful the city will reconsider banning pit bulls and other large breeds that can cause serious harm if they attack.

Tuesday
July 5, 2005

Pit bull issue calls for pet licensing. Vicious dog problem is not going to fix itself. An editorial in the News-Leader saying it was time for a dog licensing fee in Springfield and minimum requirements must be established that make plain the expectations for responsible pet owners. Law abiding citizens should not need to fear dog attacks when they are simply going for a walk in their neighborhood, barbecuing or gardening in the back yard. It was the newspaper's thought that a licensing fee could help create a fund for

victims of dog attacks. It would also provide more authority to animal control officials and funding to hire more.

Thursday
July 7, 2005

Pit bull issue puts dog law panel back to work. Group may meet as early as next week to review ordinance it drafted last year. In wake of recent pit bull attacks in Springfield, the citizens group that drafted the city's vicious dog ordinance has agreed to reconvene and study the year old law. The Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee could meet as early as next week to review the law that was meant to identify and restrict potentially dangerous dogs before they cause injury. City Council was not asking the group to look at a specific issue such as banning breeds, but rather at the broader issue of vicious dogs.

Sunday
July 10, 2005

Reconnecting homeless, community. Collaboration seeks to rebuild the links. Editorial in News-Leader regarding how the homelessness in Springfield is a problem that much of the community would like to ignore. That is why the Journey Home project announced last week is exciting. It involves the entire community, including some units of local government, in seeking to break cycles of homelessness. Another surprise is how some units of local government were becoming involved – such as the Springfield Police Department and Greene County Sheriff's Department who will refer families for the program. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department who will provide nutritional counseling and primary health care services, including immunizations. Two state agencies will help with job training and searches.

And

Two Views: Pit Bulls. Two opinions in the News-Leader editorial page regarding pit bulls. One pro and one con. Loving, caring dogs can turn on people and Focus efforts on irresponsible dog owners.

Tuesday
July 12, 2005

Review of dog ordinance requested. Committee will examine pros and cons of alternatives to vicious dog statute. The Springfield City Council hopes to put more teeth into the City's 13-month-old vicious dog ordinance. At their regular meeting on Monday night, Council formally reconvened the city-appointment committee (Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee) to review the current law as well as weigh alternatives that may improve it. The action follows a

rash of recent pit bull attacks in Springfield, including one in June that involved a three-year-old boy being mauled by a repeat offender whose owner was given a suspended sentence in March.

Monday
July 18, 2005

Vicious-dog ordinance committee reconvenes. The City's 13-month-old vicious-dog ordinance is under review tonight by The Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee. The Committee will reconvene to begin studying the law's effectiveness and identifying possible improvements. The purpose is to determine how much of a problem we really have with the ordinance and if it needs to be revamped or revised.

Tuesday
July 19, 2005

Committee: Dog law is goo as is. More animal control officers needed to enforce vicious-dog ordinance, it says. The Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee, which drew up Springfield's vicious-dog ordinance, reconvened last night and decided not to amend the law. Rather, the Committee recommended that the city step up enforcement by hiring more animal control officers or create a volunteer task force to investigate vicious-dog complaints. Under the ordinance, City Prosecutors had pressed charges against 13 owners, all of whom were found guilty by judges, and eight more cases are pending; however, the Committee members were dismayed to learn judges were not regularly ordering owners of vicious dogs to spay and neuter their pets or to microchip the animals for identification purposes.

Monday
July 25, 2005

City will again take up vicious dog law. Plans and Policies Committee will pick up where the citizen's group left off. Two weeks after the Springfield City Council referred the city's vicious dog issue to the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee, its back in the Council's court. Council had asked the Committee to reconvene and review the ordinance and weigh several alternatives that could reduce the number of dog attacks in the city - especially pit bulls. The committee met and concluded there was nothing wrong with the ordinance and recommended the city step up enforcement of the law and increase funding for the city's animal control section. Monday, the Council is expected to refer the same issue to the Plans and Policies Committee, which is made up of four council members. That committee will review a report from the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee and pick up where it left off. The council committee will obtain more information from staff about the pros and cons of some other alternatives.

And

KY3 Story

Family questions dog laws. Story regarding a Nixa family whose son was bitten twice within eight months by a black Lab at a neighbor's home. The young boy had more than 60 stitches to repair his face and after the attack last week, the dog was picked up and held for a 10-day observation period by Nixa; however, after the 10 days the dog was returned home.

Thursday
July 28, 2005

Council disregards advice it sought. Excessive measures won't solve problem. Editorial in newspaper giving their opinion that although the Animal Control Ordinance Review Committee reconvened as requested by City Council to review the vicious dog ordinance for improvement, Council was not happy with their findings and decided to disregard the group's advice. Editorial suggested that once the council committee reviewed all the data and information by staff, they, too, would realize the committee was right.

Monday
August 8, 2005

Vicious dogs pose threat to letter carriers. A postal worker delivering mail in a north Springfield neighborhood was bitten three times by a pit bull-boxer mix this summer. The animal slipped out of the house when the dog's owner opened the front door to greet the carrier. Although no stitches were required, there was plenty of swelling and bruising. The postal carrier was the fifth letter carrier this year that has been bitten by a dog in Springfield. (The average number is seven or eight.)

Air Date: Friday
February 24, 2006
(KOLR News)

City considers dog registration ordinance. Members of Springfield City Council's Plans and Policies Committee met Friday afternoon to look over the draft proposal of dog owners in Springfield registering and insuring their pets and to hear concerns from animal owners. In the next week members plan to make more revisions to the plan before a final version is submitted to the full City Council.

Thursday
February 23, 2006

Ban on pit bulls faces committee review. Proposed law would require dogs' owners to register and insure animals. A Springfield City Council committee is considering a citywide ban on pit bull dogs that would restrict current owners of the dogs and prohibit new pit bulls from coming

to town. The proposed law, modeled after Denver's 1989 pit bull ordinance, faces review Friday by the Council's Plans and Policies Committee. The proposal would require Springfield pit bull owners to register existing dogs with the city, spay or neuter them, carry liability insurance and post signs on their property reading, "pit bull dog."

Friday
February 24, 2006

Our View: Do away with bad ideas, not dogs. Ban on pit bulls targets innocent pet owners. An editorial in the newspaper reading that the breed-specific ban was a bad idea and there were two things that would make the current law work better. (1) A licensing fee and process; and (2) more staff and a larger animal shelter to house confiscated animals. The licensing fee would help pay for the additional resources and drive home the idea that owning a pet is a responsibility. In the end, editorial believed that City Council should not decide what kind of dogs people can or cannot have, but believed they should make reasonable decisions in the best interest of community safety.

Saturday
February 25, 2006

Council debates pit bull problem. Measures from anti-tethering laws to restrictions on ownership discussed. Councilman Conrad Griggs was giving support for a pit bull law that would heavily restrict ownership of the dogs in Springfield. Griggs was ready to sponsor a bill prohibiting pit bulls from the city unless owners abide by rules that include licensing their dogs with the city and providing proof of vaccination, microchip identification, \$100,00 of liability insurance and spaying or neutering. Dogs found without a license could be picked up by animal control officers and destroyed.

Friday
March 13, 2006

Mayor lays out "tapestry" of city. State of the City addresses points toward growth, but some worry about security. During his presentation of the annual State of the City report, Mayor Tom Carlson noted successes during the past year along with what to expect for the future, and touched on some sticky issues facing the city - one included the proposed restrictions on pit bulls.

Air Date: Wednesday
March 22, 2006
KOLR-10 News

Council to get revamped dog ordinance. Story regarding the Springfield City Council Plans and Policies Committee passing on some changes to the City's vicious dog ordinance that would affect owners of pit bull terriers. The

changes include requiring owners to have their pit bulls confined at all times, have them spayed/neutered, pay a \$50 per year registration fee and post signs on their property alerting visitors that a pit bull is present.

Monday
April 3, 2006

Pit bull ordinance goes to council tonight. A controversial ordinance restricting the ownership of pit bulls will be making its way to City Council tonight and if passed, would generally prohibit pit bulls within the city limits of Springfield unless a specific set of requirements are met. Health staff and the Council's Plans and Policies Committee feel that the ordinance is needed to address a disproportionate amount of problems caused by pit bulls and irresponsible owners.

And

Air date: Monday
April 3, 2006
KOLR News

Pit bull prohibition to Council tonight. Story from KOLR regarding the public hearing tonight on an ordinance that prohibits the ownership of pit bulls in the city limits.

And later that day:
KOLR News

Dog lovers, dog haters at odds over proposed city ordinance. About 133 people packed the Council Chambers tonight and at least 55 had filled out cards, each waiting in line for their 3-minutes to voice their opinions on the proposed pit bull ordinance.

Tuesday
April 4, 2006

Hearing on pit bulls raises some hackles. Breed's supporters turn out to place blame on people in pets' defense. The not-so-subtle message sent to City Council during Monday night's public hearing on a breed-specific ordinance targeting pit bulls was that it was the owners, not the pit bulls creating problems. Director of Health Kevin Gipson reported that nearly 22% of the dogs picked up last year were pit bulls and that 64% of the vicious dog cases last year involved pit bulls. The dogs have to be segregated in pens by themselves for the safety of the officers and other dogs at the Shelter, and the Health Department favored the proposed ordinance that would require pit bull owners to register their pets at the shelter.

And

In an online poll by the News-Leader, the question was asked: Should Springfield require all dogs living in the city to be registered? Of 709 voting, 71.1% said yes, and 28.9% said no.

Wednesday
April 5, 2006

Our View: Give existing dog laws a chance. Ordinance specifically for pit bulls misguided. Newspaper editorial stated City Council was headed in the wrong direction with support for a breed-specific law that would greatly restrict ownership of pit bulls in the city. They suggested a smarter way would be to give current laws a chance to work.

And

An online newspaper poll asked: Do you think Springfield's proposed pit bull ordinance is too restrictive? Of the 703 voting - 30.4% said yes; 69.6% said no.

Sunday
April 9, 2006

Sunday Issue: Pit Bulls Ordinance offers another level of protection for city residents. Letter to editor of News-Leader from Director of Health Kevin Gipson regarding the problems caused by pit bulls in Springfield, how they have increased year after year, and why the current vicious dog ordinance is not adequate to deal with pit bull problems. Gipson felt the proposed ordinance would provide a solution within capacity to enforce.

Tuesday
April 18, 2006

Council tightens leash on pit bulls. Owners of the breed now must submit to a formidable number of restrictions. City Council approved dramatic restrictions on pit bull dog ownership at their meeting on Monday. Within six months all pit bull owners will be required to register their dogs with the city for a \$50 annual fee. Registration only comes for fixed dogs with proof of rabies shots and microchip identification. Other restrictions included with American Pit Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire terrier or Staffordshire bull terrier traits are to be confined while at their homes, which must have warning signs posted at every entrance, and either caged or leashed and muzzled while in public.

Wednesday
April 19, 2006

Pit bull ordinance adds up for owners. Complying could cost nearly \$100 per dog. Pit bull owners who comply with new restrictions on the breed could spend close to \$100 registering one dog and buying items required under a new

ordinance approved by City Council. Enforcement will begin in mid-October, but already some pit bull owners were complaining of costs associated with coming into compliance.

Thursday
April 25, 2006

City embarks on pit bull PR campaign. Along with a litany of requirements, the dogs must be registered annually. Springfield's new pit bull ordinance goes into full effect October 16th; however, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department had already begun a public information campaign about the new requirements for pit bull dogs living inside the city limits.

And

(KOLR News)

City Prepares to Put Pit Bull Law into Effect. Story regarding the health department preparing to implement a new ordinance strictly regulating the ownership of pit bull terriers with registration of dogs beginning June 5.

Wednesday
April 26, 2006

Springfield pit bull law may lead to Greene County law. Greene County leaders worried that Springfield's pit bull problems will soon become their problems have decided to look at changing their no laws regarding vicious animals unless a dog has attacked to maybe having an ordinance with more "teeth". The Greene County Commission was considering an ordinance that would require the owners of a dog that is declared vicious to get a special permit, keep the dog confined at all times and implant a microchip. Director of Health Kevin Gipson stated that what they might want to look at was a vicious dog ordinance to give officials the ability to take care of issues in the county before those animals bite.

Wednesday
May 3, 2006

Petition on pit bull law circulates. Two veterinarians have started the drive to let the public decide on ban. Two local veterinarians organized a drive to repeal Springfield's new pit bull ordinance and send it to a public vote, and copies of a petition seeking to overturn the breed-specific legislation are also popping up in lobbies of animal clinics all over town. Under the city charter an ordinance can be repealed and put on a ballot if at least 10 percent of registered voters who voted in the last mayoral election sign and submit a formal petition to the city clerk within 30 days of council approval of the ordinance. A petition with at least 1,400 signatures must be filed with the clerk by May 18 to repeal the ordinance and send to voters.

And

(KOLR News)

Pet owners circulate petitions on new pit bull law. Story regarding petition being circulated to try to force a public vote on the pit bull law or to at least prompt City Council to rescind the law.

Thursday
May 4, 2006

Online poll in News-Leader asking do you think the city's new pit bull ordinance should be repealed before it goes into effect. Out of 1,013 people calling in to vote 50.6% voted yes and 49.4% voted no.

Air date: Wednesday
May 17, 2006
(KOLR News)

Petitions submitted to repeal pit bull ordinance. While the Springfield-Greene County Health Department is preparing to coordinate how pit bull owners will have to register their dogs, petitions were submitted to repeal the ordinance. The City has 20 days to verify the 3,000 signatures obtained. If the City does not repeal it, voters could then see the issue on a ballot as early as November. If the petition signatures are found to be valid, all registration will be suspended until the ordinance is either repealed or voted on.

Friday
May 19, 2006

Pit bull petition processed. City Clerk's office received an estimated 2,400 signatures on a petition seeking to repeal Springfield's pit bull ordinance. The Clerk's office said they have 20 days to verify the 1,392 signatures needed to certify the petition.

Monday
May 22, 2006

Our View: Pit bull issue should go to voters. Council needs to find plan to make law work. Editorial in newspaper suggesting City Council should go ahead and repeal their breed-specific law, which they felt would be ineffective in dealing with the pit bull problem, or let voters decide.

Air date: Wednesday
May 31, 2006
(KOLR News)

Opponents of new pit bull law fail in petition effort. The City of Springfield announced that a petition effort to overturn the new pit bull ordinance failed to gain enough eligible signatures to force an election on the issue. According to the statement from the City Clerk's office, the number of signatures certified was only 1,192. The group needed at least 1,392. Clerk's office mentioned that several factors

were found for the inability to certify a signer's name. Some included duplicate signatures, unregistered voters, or people not residents of the City of Springfield. With the failure of the petition effort, the city planned to go ahead with the schedule to begin enacting the ordinance by beginning registration on June 5th.

And

(KY-3 News)

City says new pit bull law won't land on city ballot. Story regarding the City Clerk's office only certifying 1,192 signatures on a petition to force the new pit bull law to a public vote. In order to be valid, the opponents needed 1,392 signatures of registered voters in the city.

Air date: Thursday
June 1, 2006 (KOLR)

Pit Bulls Taken Out of Home. Story of how dogs had been left abandoned at a home on North Grant Avenue and now the dogs had been taken out of the home. Animal Control had responded to a complaint earlier in the week, but was unable to do anything because the tenants still had possession of the house.

And

(News-Leader)

Signatures fall short for pit bull ballot drive. The City of Springfield announced that the effort to obtain 2,500 signatures needed to put the pit bull ordinance on the ballot for a vote had fallen 200 short of the number required to force the issue onto an election ballot.

Saturday, June 3, 2006

On the editorial page of the News-Leader, there were two quotes from people regarding the new pit bull ordinance and the lack of signatures to force the issue to a ballot.

Air date: Tuesday
June 6, 2006 (KY-3)

Springfield issues first license for pit bull terrier. After years of debate over a vicious dog ordinance and a series of dog attacks, the City Council settled on putting strict regulations on pit bull terriers. Now, the city issued its first license for a pit bull.

And

(KOLR-10)

Registration begins for pit bulls. Story aired regarding the registration of pit bulls in the City of Springfield.

And

(News-Leader)

Pit Bull Ban - Better solution than ban exists. A letter to the editor stated that they thought there was a better way to

solve the problem of vicious dogs and that was to spay and neuter.

Wednesday
June 7, 2006

Registration begins with a whimper. The first day, only two pit bull owners filed the newly mandated paperwork. After the first day of registering pit bulls showed only two owners showing up, it was apparent other owners were not in as big of a hurry. Deadline to register is October 16.

Monday
June 19, 2006

County works on nuisance dog law. Ordinance would allow county to fine owners of problem dogs and enforce leash law. An increase in the number of phone calls reporting stray dogs and aggressive dogs in the county, Greene County officials is drafting its first animal control ordinance, outlining rules for dealing with dogs at large and creating an urban service area for enforcement.

Friday
June 23, 2006

Loose dog law is step in right direction. Dumping of unwanted pets must be stopped. In an editorial viewpoint, the News-Leader stated that the Greene County Commission was good in creating more enforcement in the county of stray and aggressive dogs; it would not solve the problem.

Tuesday
July 4, 2006

Pit bull owners slow to register. Only 12 have complied with new law. Woman plans to fight ordinance in court. One month into the new ordinance requirement of registering pit bulls showed only a handful of the estimated 4,00-5,000 pit bulls in Springfield had complied and one lady was planning to find an attorney who would help her fight the issue in court.

Monday
September 4, 2006

Laws address dogs' potential for danger. In a story about how the euthanization of more than 200 pit bulls in Houston had renewed debate over how to deal with dogs deemed dangerous in USA Today, Ron Boyer (Assistant Director of Health) is quoted as saying, "Pit bulls had constituted the majority of our vicious dog problems, and the number of pit bulls had continued to grow." He continued to say regarding a law passed in April requiring pit bulls to be registered, "This was prompted in the beginning because of a number of serious attacks we had in

Springfield, primarily on small children ... (now) we have an immediate mechanism to deal with the problem.”

Air date: Monday
September 18, 2006
(KOLR-10)

County considers leash law. Greene County Commission was drafting up a proposed leash law that many think is overdue. The new ordinance would apply only to the urban services area - the area of Greene County immediately outside the Springfield city limits - and it would require dogs in the USA to be on a leash.

Saturday
September 23, 2006

Pit Bull law being ignored. Opinion in the News-Leader was responding to a quote by Ron Boyer (Assistant Director of Health) in regards to owners not registering their pit bulls when he said “It’s not good. It points out that many pit bull owners are not very responsible.” Opinion was that it was more the fact that it was an unenforcement law rather than bad pet owners.

Friday
September 22, 2006

Pit bull owners stall as deadline nears. About 50 of an estimated 4,000 dogs are registered ahead of October 16 cut-off. Only a handful of pit bull owners have registered their dogs and the health department was warning owners that failure to comply with the new law could face citations, fines and the loss of their dogs, which could be adopted or euthanized if they are not claimed.

Monday
October 2, 2006

City, county tackle animal control. Pit bull registration deadline nears; Greene County ordinance proposed. Both city and county officials were dealing with animal control issues. While city was in the process of having owners register their pit bulls, the county was drawing up a leash law ordinance for the urban service area.

Tuesday
October 3, 2008

County OKs ordinance to keep dogs on leashes. Pet owners will no longer be allowed to let dogs run freely. Greene County Commission unanimously passed a law requiring dogs in the county to be on a leash and establishing an urban service area where Springfield-Greene County Animal Control would respond to complaints about free-running dogs and vicious dogs.

And

One dog policy would be better. City, county should start over. An opinion in the News-Leader stated they felt the city and county should create start over and work together to come up with one ordinance for city and county pet owners.

Wednesday
October 4, 2006

Animal advocates' views mixed on new county ordinance. Advocates in the area had some good and bad reviews for the county's new leash law and urban service area.

Air Date: Monday
October 9, 2006
(KOLR-10)

Pit bull owners running out of time to register animals. With Springfield's new ordinance regulating owners of pit bulls set to go in effect in about a week, the Springfield-Greene County Health Department is holding two weekend sessions in an attempt to get all pit bulls registered.

Thursday
October 12, 2006

Will new homes be safe? Exotic Animal Paradise owner says he'll screen the buyers at weekend auction of 450 creates. Exotic Animal Paradise was closing gates after 35 years in business and the owner was selling all the animals, tools and equipment. He was hoping the animals will all find good homes and he will refuse to sell if he believes the buyer is not suitable.

Monday
October 16, 2006

On line poll question - If your neighbor had an unregistered pit bull, would you call the city to report it? 71% YES / 29% NO

And

Day of reckoning arrives for city's pit bull owners. Beginning today, owners of pit bulls that are not wearing a muzzle in public or are not registered with the city will face fines or be summoned to court. Ron Boyer (Assistant Director of Health) said that they would be out beginning next week issuing tickets and he said he doubted that it would be difficult in finding violators.

And

(KY-3)

Enforcement starts on city's pit bull ordinance. Animal Control officers handed out five tickets for unregistered pit bull terriers this morning. The deadline for owners in the city to register their dogs passed and today was the date for the ordinance to go into effect.

Air date: Wednesday
October 18, 2006
(KY-3)

Pit bull owners find there's more to new ordinance than meets the eye. After spending money on having their pit bulls registered, micro chipped and neutered, owners were now finding to be in compliance with the city's new ordinance, they would also have to face other expenses such as posting signs and fencing yards if they wanted their dog to run off the leash in their yard.

Air date: Monday
October 23, 2006
(KY-3)

Pit bull owners ticketed for violating new law. Realizing the health department was serious about enforcing the new pit bull registration ordinance, owners were now bringing in their pets to be registered. During the first week of enforcement, 21 tickets were issued.

Tuesday
October 24, 2006

Pit bull registrations push past deadline. Owners keep up complaints that city keeps them on too short a leash. As the second week of enforcement of the new pit bull ordinance begins, the volume of complaints and concerns for registering their animals, seemed to be settling down and more owners were seen coming to the shelter to register their pets.

Wednesday
January 3, 2007

County takes on aggressive animals. Ordinance revision lets officers pick up dogs running loose. Greene County Commission met and officially revised the county's first animal control ordinance to prohibit dogs running loose within the Urban Animal Control area. Dogs running at large will be picked up by the Springfield-Greene County Animal Control.

Tuesday
October 2, 2007

Pit bull ordinance turns one year old (KSPR, Michelle Sherwood). The Health Department wanted to prevent attacks by vicious dogs and it has by 33%. One year ago the pit bull ordinance went into effect and the department said only about a fourth of pit bull owners had registered their dogs, but overall, Animal Control has picked up fewer pit bulls and had fewer reports of pit bull attacks since the ordinance went into place.

KY-3 News
Thursday
March 19, 2009

Bite-and-run case could mean expensive shots for man. A man on a run was taken by surprise when he was bitten by a dog running free but whose owner was nearby. After being bitten, the owner grabbed his four dogs and ran away. Although the man says his bite marks will heal, he's hoping to find the dog's owner or dogs by the end of the week so he will not have to undergo shots. The series of shots cost \$1,500 to \$2,500.

KY-3 News
Friday
March 20, 2009

Dog bites postal carrier near eye in Springfield. A mail carrier was recovering after a vicious dog bite on Thursday morning. The dog bit Gary Bloom just above his right eye while he was delivering mail in the 2700 block West Olive and, as a result, he received several stitches. The Health Department quarantined the dog for the mandatory 10 days and the owners of the dog now face fines from the city for having a loose dog and a possible lawsuit from the United States Postal Service.

Tuesday
March 24, 2009

City Council tables pit bull adoption proposal. A proposal to let animal rescue groups save salvageable pit bulls from the city pound, and adopt them out at least 100 miles away, was tabled Monday night. Councilwoman Mary Collette had requested city staff to come up with a policy that would end the city's killing unregistered pit bulls at the Shelter. Collette and Councilwoman Cindy Rushefsky objected to the \$500,000 insurance requirement for rescue groups and the 100-mile adoption limit; however, City Attorney Dan Wichmer stated he felt the city's pit bull policy is already effective and the insurance requirement would protect the city from lawsuits if the adopted pit bulls bit someone. Wichmer also stated that the distance requirement was included to deter people from dumping pit bulls back in the city if they didn't work out as pets.

And

State: TB isn't gone, shouldn't be forgotten. Missouri officials were trying to raise awareness that tuberculosis is far from a thing of the past and Governor Jay Nixon signed a proclamation marking Tuberculosis Awareness Day (the same day as observance for World TB Day). From the local standpoint, Kendra Williams (Administrator of Community Health and Epidemiology) stated the department continues to report that TB affects foreign born persons and racial and

ethnic minorities. The Health Department was making a concerted effort to help these and other high risk populations get tested and treated quickly. The Health Department administered 2,146 skin tests in 2008 and there were two new cases of active TB diagnosed. The department's TB clinic has treated 112 clients for TB infection.

Wednesday
March 25, 2009

Pit bull adoption proposal tabled. Plan requires dogs to be taken 100 miles away. A proposal that would let animal rescue groups save salvageable pit bulls from the city pound - and adopt them out at least 100 miles away - was tabled at Monday night's City Council meeting. Councilwoman Mary Collette, who had asked City staff for a policy that would end the city's practice of killing all unregistered pit bulls picked up by Animal Control, was unsatisfied with some of the conditions the City's legal department came up with. For instance, a \$500,000 insurance requirement for rescue groups and the 100-mile adoption limit. Collette and Councilwoman Cindy Rushefsky objected because rescue groups currently adopting animals from the Shelter are not required to have insurance nor have the 100-mile limit.

Friday
April 3, 2009

Pit Bull rules could change. As currently stands in Springfield, no one (even rescue groups) cannot adopt a pit bull from the Shelter. Unless claimed by owner, the dog is put down. Councilwoman Mary Collette will be making a proposal before City Council to change that and allow rescue groups to take pit bulls and find them a home.

Monday
April 6, 2009
KOLR-10 News

City Council denies pit bull rescue. After Council members heard from attorneys, the Health Department and citizens, they voted 6-3 to not allow the adoption of pit bulls to rescue groups from the Animal Shelter.

And

KY-3 News

City Council keeps Springfield rule on killing pit bulls. City Council turns down a proposal to change what happens to pit bull terriers and pit bull mixes after they wind up in the Animal Shelter.

Tuesday
April 7, 2009

Council votes down pit bull rescue proposal. Article regarding Council's vote of 6-3 against a proposal that would have let registered animal rescue groups "cherry pick" pit bulls. Council took into consideration a current ordinance that has eliminated attacks by the breed. Kevin Gipson (Director of Health) stated the existing pit bull ordinance had significantly reduced the number of free-running pit bulls and pit bull attacks since it began in 2006.

Tuesday
November 3, 2009
KOLR News and
News-Leader

Flu cases decline slightly in Greene County. It is not known why, but Springfield-Greene County Health Department reported that flu cases have declined somewhat in the county last week (143 cases) over the previous week (257 cases). While encouraging, Jaci McReynolds (spokesperson for the Health Department) said the trend of seeing more than half the flu cases in five to 14 year old children continues.

And

KSPR News

Pit bull still at home after killing one neighbor's dog, injuring two others. A pit bull terrorized a Greene County neighborhood Tuesday afternoon, killing at least one dog and possibly two more. Neighbors were complaining that they felt like hostages in their homes after the attack. Because the neighborhood is outside the City Limits of Springfield, there are no pit ordinances that apply and animal control officers had no authority to take the dog. The Greene County Sheriff's Department had issued an animal abuse citation because the pit bull was not controlled.

Wednesday
November 4, 2009
KY-3 News
And KSPR News

Animal control officers seize pit bull that killed three other dogs. People in a neighborhood southwest of Springfield rested a little easier after a pit bull mix went on a rampage Tuesday, killing three other dogs, was seized by Springfield-Greene County Health Department Animal Control Officers today and taken to the shelter north of Springfield. An investigation is being conducted.

And

News-Leader

Neglect charges sought against pit bull owner, officer says. Greene County authorities have sent a report to the prosecutor's office for the possible filing of animal neglect charges against a woman who owns a pit bull mix terrier that killed one dog and injured others in a southwest neighborhood.

Thursday
November 5, 2009

Pit bull seized after allegations it hurt, killed other animals. Greene County authorities have seized the pit bull mix neighbors say killed and injured dogs in their neighborhood on Tuesday. Greene County Captain Randy Gibson said they will present a case to the prosecutor that the animal has been abused. The investigation showed the dog killed one dog outright and injured others, and there was an incident last year during which the dog also killed a smaller dog.

Wednesday
November 11, 2009

Woman charged after pit bull attacks. A Springfield woman has been charged with misdemeanor animal abuse after her pit bull allegedly attacked and killed two of her neighbors' dogs. The Greene County Prosecutor filed the charge on Monday against the dog's owner Sandy Kelley. The dog "Barty" remains at the Springfield Animal Shelter and his fate depends on a hearing by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department panel that reviews vicious dog cases.

Thursday
November 12, 2009

Dog owner disputes allegations. Woman charged with animal abuse after attack by her pit bull. A woman whose pit bull authorities say killed a neighbor's Chihuahua last week turned herself in to the Greene County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday. Sandy Kelley, who lives just outside Springfield city limits, said she would turn herself in and post a \$750 bond, but she blamed the incident on a neighbor's dog that she said came into her yard, barked at "Barty" and caused the pit bull to jump its chain-link fence. Kelley also disputes another neighbor's account that Barty leapt into another yard, killed the Chihuahua and severely mauled a Doberman pinscher. The County's Vicious and Nuisance Dog Advisory Board will review the case to determine its fate.

Tuesday
December 15, 2009
KSPR News

Ozarks Health Department Declares Pit Bull Mix "Barty" a Vicious Dog. The Springfield-Greene County Health Department Assistant Director says a vicious dog investigation is complete. Assistant Director Clay Goddard sent a formal letter to pit bull mix "Barty's" owner, Sandy Kelley. The health department received a complaint on

November 3. The complaint reported "Barty" was running at large and attacking other dogs in the 2600 block of W. Village Lane. After an investigation into the incident from witness testimony and a previous incident report on August 3, 2008 the animal control officer investigating the case ruled "Barty" was a vicious dog. "It is my belief that "Barty" presents an imminent threat to public health and safety," Goddard said in an official letter to Kelley. Kelley or a representative can present their case at a hearing on December 30. The hearing will determine if the animal shall be "humanely destroyed" or if any other remedies will be used.

Friday
December 18, 2009

Springfield pit bull owner vows to fight abuse charge, vicious status. Springfield woman says she will fight to save her pit bull and contest an animal abuse charge, even if she can't find a lawyer. Sandy Kelley said she was disappointed Associate Circuit Judge Dan Imhof refused to assign her a public defender at a hearing on a misdemeanor animal abuse charge. Kelley said she told Imhof her only income is from Social Security, but that he did not accept that argument. She plans to try to find an attorney to represent her in court and during a hearing on the fate of her pit bull, Barty, before the Springfield-Greene County Health Department's Vicious and Nuisance Dog Advisory Committee. The committee could recommend that Barty be destroyed. Kelley pleaded not guilty to the animal abuse charge at a hearing set to determine if she had hired an attorney. She said if she defends herself, she'll show that neighbors' complaints about Barty stem from bad blood. Along with dealing with the animal abuse charge, Kelley said she will respond to a Dec. 30 hearing of the Vicious and Nuisance Dog Advisory Committee. The judge ordered Kelley to return to court Jan. 14 on the animal abuse charge. That will not delay the committee hearing because the abuse complaint and the hearing on Barty are not directly related, assistant health director Clay Goddard said. If Kelley hires an attorney, the attorney can speak for her, or she can speak for herself or submit written comments, Goddard said. The panel also will listen to neighbors, animal control officers and deputies. The committee will make a recommendation to department director Kevin Gipson. Kelley can appeal a decision to circuit court.

Wednesday
December 30, 2009

Hearing today for pit bull that killed neighbor's dog. A public hearing today will determine the fate of a pit bull-mix that attacked and killed a neighbor's dog in November.

Kevin Gipson, director of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, will conduct the hearing at 1:30 p.m. in the basement of the health department building, 227 E. Chestnut Expressway. The county's three-member Vicious and Nuisance Dog Committee will hear from the dog's owner and neighbors who were affected by the dog's behavior. The committee will make a recommendation to Gipson, who then will make a decision within a week. Due to the limited space for today's hearing, the department will limit attendance based on fire code regulations to approximately 25 people. Space will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

And

Woman denies her pit bull to blame for fatal Greene County attack. The owner of a pit bull mix that neighbors say killed several dogs in recent years denied her dog was to blame for the latest fatal attack in November. At a hearing before Greene County's Vicious and Nuisance Dog Committee today, Sandy Kelley testified that another dog - not her pit bull Barty - may have caused the carnage on West Village Lane on November 3. Several witnesses identified Barty as the dog that killed a Chihuahua, bit a small Schnauzer, and tore up a Doberman, all within the space of about 30 minutes. The Committee will review Wednesday's testimony and make a recommendation about Barty's fate to Health Department Director Kevin Gipson. Gipson said he planned to decide the case by the end of next week.

And

Wednesday
December 30, 2009
KSPR News

Ozarks dog "Barty" gets day in "court," county could euthanize. For the first time in Greene County history, a hearing was held to determine the fate of a dog the health department declared vicious. On Wednesday, the dog's owner and her frustrated neighbors met face to face in a small Springfield-Greene County Health Department basement conference room. Seven-year-old pit bull mix "Barty's" future depends on the outcome of the hearing. Earlier this month, the health department declared "Barty" was a vicious dog based on a November 3, 2009 incident. During a 30-minute span, the health department says "Barty" attacked at least three dogs, killing two and injuring another.

And

KSPR News

Vicious pit bull the subject of public hearing in Springfield, MO. A dog that is accused of killing several other dogs in its neighborhood was the subject of a public hearing Wednesday afternoon. It's the first hearing of its kind in Greene County since a vicious dog ordinance was passed in 2007. The pit bull named Barty has been in the Animal Control shelter since Nov. 4, the day after neighbors say it went on a rampage, killing one dog immediately, another died later, and a third was seriously hurt.

Thursday
December 31, 2009

Woman denies her dog's role in killing.
10 neighbors provide opposing testimony in an emotional hearing. The eyewitness testimony was wrenching and graphic. Tears flowed. Tempers flared. And through it all, Sandy Kelley maintained her pit bull-mix Barty wasn't responsible for a Nov. 3 rampage that killed one neighbor's dog and injured two others. She believes it was all a case of mistaken identity. At a hearing before Greene County's Vicious and Nuisance Dog Committee, Kelley testified that another dog may have caused the carnage on West Village Lane on Nov. 3. Several eyewitnesses identified Barty as the dog that killed a Chihuahua, bit a small schnauzer and tore up a Doberman -- all within the space of about 30 minutes. Barty remains confined at the city animal shelter. If officials agree to spare his life, Kelley promised to keep the dog indoors for the rest of his life. The committee, hearing its first case ever, will review Wednesday's testimony and make a recommendation to Health Department Director Kevin Gipson. Gipson said he planned to decide the case by the end of next week. If Kelley disagrees with Gipson's ruling, she can fight it in Greene County Circuit Court.

Saturday
January 16, 2010

Pit bull dogs corner mail carrier. Owner faces possible fines for allegedly not registering animals. The owner of two pit bulls that escaped and cornered postman was cited for not having them registered by Animal Control. Since the dogs were back in the home upon the arrival of Animal Control Angela Foster, the owner was not cited for having dogs running loose. The confrontation started just after 2 p.m. at duplexes across the street from the dog owner's home, 1552 N. Hillcrest Ave. Although the City is permitted to take the dogs away if they are not registered, the Officer did not take possession. Plum faces a fine up to \$1,000 and up to 6 months in jail for each dog. One of the dogs had been registered in 2007, Foster said, but pit bull owners are required to register the dog each year. Karen Prescott, an environmental health administrator for the Springfield-Greene County Health Department, said the owner reported that the other dog was not registered because it was

pregnant. "It can't be spayed until after the puppies are born, so they'll have to register it after that," she said. Under the ordinance, pit bulls have to be spayed or neutered.

Thursday
January 28, 2010
KOLR News

Toddler injured by dog bite. A two year old boy is being treated at a Springfield hospital this morning, after being bitten by a dog at his daycare. Captain Jim Farrell with the Greene County Sheriff's Department says deputies were called to the daycare facility in the 7700 block of North Farm Road 137 near Willard just after 8:00 this morning. The boy had been dropped off at the daycare shortly before the incident. Farrell said a dog, owned by the daycare operator, bit the boy on the head. The Springfield-Greene County animal control office took control of the Labrador-blue heeler mix. The boy was taken by ambulance to the hospital for treatment. The severity of his injuries was not immediately known. Farrell said it appeared the boy did not provoke the attack.

Tuesday
March 9, 2010
KY-3 News

Pit bull attack leaves pet owner looking for answers. Last weekend, while walking to the park, a pit bull attacked a three year old Yorkie. The owner recalls, "It snatched her up and shook her back and forth like a rag doll." She says the pit bull was loose, and only dropped the Yorkie to go after her Lab. The Lab suffered only minor injuries. However, an emergency vet report for the Yorkie details bite wounds, spinal cord trauma, and paralysis--injuries so severe, and the animal was put to sleep. Yet she arrived home to learn officials returned the dog to its owners with nothing more than citations. The animal was not only loose, but also unregistered. Owner was concerned and felt the dog should have been impounded. The Health Department, which oversees Animal Control, spoke about the process it follows to determine whether a dog is vicious. "We're looking to make sure the claims are true, number one, and number two, we're looking for a pattern of behavior that the dog might exhibit," explains Assistant Director of Health Clay Goddard. And, he says, that kind of investigation takes time, as well as a court order. "If we're able to make a case, we'll go to the prosecutor and bring that evidence to a judge. Then it's the judge's decision whether that animal be declared vicious or not." The owner is concerned that if it had attacked a child, would they have released it to their owners?

Wednesday
March 24, 2010
KSPR News

Greene County Deputies: Woman told Dog to Sic them and Animal Control Officer. A Greene County woman accused of prompting her dogs to attack deputies bonded out of jail Wednesday. Carol Nachbar is charged with two counts of assault on a law enforcement officer, resisting arrest and three counts of animal abuse. In Greene County, someone can be charged with animal abuse for failing to control an animal. On Monday (3-22) an animal control officer went to Nachbar's home in the 900 block of east Farm Road 205. Someone reported that a golden retriever owned by Nachbar attacked a bicyclist riding down the road. The golden retriever, "Henley," is inside the animal control shelter, which will be held ten days for rabies observation. During the attempt to seize "Henley," the animal control officer called the Greene County Sheriff's Office for back up. Deputies say Nachbar ordered her dogs to attack them. They say she told the dogs to "sic them, get 'em, get 'em." According to court documents, Nachbar swung her arm at a deputy. Officers tried to use a Taser but missed. They then used pepper spray to keep her dogs away. Then they pepper sprayed Nachbar.

Thursday
July 1, 2010
KSPR-TV News

Neighbors: Vicious Dog Stops Door Mail Service. People living in one Springfield neighborhood say a vicious dog is stopping their mail service. The post office won't deliver to their doors because of problems with one animal. Neighbors along a stretch of Eagle Avenue in North Springfield are all too aware of a German Shepherd mix dog that lives on the street, but say that officials should step up and take care of the problem rather than punish the whole street. The postal carrier who works the stretch of Eagle Avenue in north Springfield says he was chased too many times. "In neither case has a carrier been bitten -- but they have been chased," Postmaster of Springfield Bill Brayman said. He says the post office sends three letters to dangerous dog owners to contain their animals. After three strikes, anyone within roaming distance of the dog is out. The post office won't deliver mail there. Brayman says mail carriers will set up a radius based on how far the particular dog roams. Anyone living within that area will have to pick up their mail from their delivery station. The owner of the dog in question says that her dog is not the problem and there are other dogs running loose in the neighborhood. Neighbors and the postmaster of Springfield say they've contact the health department and animal control about this dog. KSPR

News called animal control to check on citations or possible action but as of news time Wednesday night no calls were returned. The post office will decide by next week if the situation improved on Eagle Avenue or if it will require neighbors to install mailboxes on the street.

